Strike by the IACS staff

*68. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scientists and non-academic staff of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) in Calcutta went on a protest strike on April 12, 1988 over pay revision and working conditions; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Firing in the Siachen area

*69. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian troops in the Siachen area had to open fire when some suspicious movement was noticed on the Pakistan side on the 13th April, 1988;

(b) whether the Minister of Defence with a team was also at the Siachen Glacier on the 13th April, 1988 when the Indian troops took this action; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what further steps have been taken by Government to closely watch the suspicious movements of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On 13th April, 1988, while Raksha Mantri along with Defence Secretary and senior officers of the Army and the Air Force were in the Siachen area, our artillery guns opened fire when some suspicious movements were observed on the Pakistani side.

Our troops maintain constant vigilance in the Siachen area and take necessary measures for its defence. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

Max project of the CDOT

*70. DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MAX project of the C-DOT is progressing satisfactorily; and

(b) if so, by when commercial production of the same is proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The C-DOT MAX project is progressing satisfactorily within the overall objective of setting up of a new switching factory for commercial production during the 7th Plan period.

(b) The commercial production of C-DOT MAX is expected to start as below:

512	Port MAX	—End 1988
16000	Port MAX	—End 1988

Bharat Electronics Limited factory at Kotdwar, Garhwal, U.P.

*71. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the setting up of the BEL factory at Kotdwar, Garhwal in U.P.;

(b) what is the expenditure incurred so far in this regard, item-wise;

(c) by when the factory is likely to be commissioned; and